Under utilisation of budgetary allocations for tourism

*4308. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocation to the Department of Tourism for the financial year 2005-06 has been curtailed as against the provisions for the year 2004-05; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department could not fully utilize its budget allocated during the last few years and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether responsibility of some officials has been fixed for non-utilisation of departmental Budget and if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of tourism in Maharashtra

4309. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a special plan for development of tourism in the State to remove regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the salient features and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the quantum of Central Government aid sought therefor; and

(d) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Development of tourist places/spots is a continous process. Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments/UT Administrations identifies such places of tourist interest including the State of Maharashtra, Based on project proposals received from the States, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for development of their infrastructure. During 2004-05 projects worth Rs. 16.00 crore were sanctioned for development of tourism in Maharashtra.

* Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.